

(b) The Reserve Bank make loans and advances to the Apex Co-operative Banks and not to District or Primary institutions. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the number of villages that have been benefited by the credit facilities afforded by the Reserve Bank.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Are there any Banks besides in Bombay and Madras for which the Reserve Bank has advanced finances?

Shri M. C. Shah: Yes, in Madras, Bombay, U.P., Vindhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Ajmer-Merwara. Certain other Central Co-operative Banks are being re-organised in other States too.

ELECTION PETITIONS

*375. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Election petitions so far disposed of by Election Tribunals after the last Election; and

(b) the number of Election petitions pending at present in respect of Parliamentary and State Legislature constituencies?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) Upto the 10th November 1952, 21 election petitions have been disposed of by Election Tribunals.

(b) The number pending is 295, of which 31 are in respect of Parliamentary constituencies and 264 are in respect of State Legislature constituencies.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I inquire the names of such persons who have been unseated already?

Shri Biswas: That was a part of the question. That part was disallowed. Am I required to answer that?

Mr. Speaker: No. The information is, easily available from the Government Gazette. The names are published.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the number of tribunals that are working in India?

Shri Biswas: I cannot give the number offhand. I believe that question was answered here.

Shri Velayudham: May I know whether any time limit is set for the disposal of these cases in a particular tribunal?

Shri Biswas: No, Sir. As a matter of fact, one single tribunal may be in charge of a number of cases. They have got to adopt a time table according to the requirements of those cases.

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham: How many election petitions have been allowed?

Shri Biswas: Having regard to the information I have regarding Members unseated, I would only hazard a guess: seven.

FLOODS IN MANIPUR

*376. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the area and extent of the ravage caused by the recent floods in Manipur;

(b) the damage caused to the standing crops;

(c) how many houses were washed away or destroyed;

(d) the number of people who were rendered homeless;

(e) the relief so far given by Government; and

(f) whether Government propose to render monetary help in the form of relief to the flood-stricken people?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (f). About 40,000 acres of land with standing crops were inundated by the recent floods. Eightyfive huts are reported to have been destroyed. Exact figures of those rendered homeless are being compiled; but most of them have been able to obtain shelter with their relatives. Steps for immediate relief were taken promptly. Food-stuffs have been distributed to those affected and the Government have incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 7000/- for relief so far. A full report on the subject is expected shortly from the Chief Commissioner.

Shri L. J. Singh: The hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture told the House the other day that 4,000 maunds of rice had been sent to Manipur for relief to the distressed people. May I know why, instead of rice, maize was distributed to the flood-stricken people in these areas?

Dr. Katju: I want notice of this question. May I add that I propose to visit Manipur towards the end of this month, and would try to look into the whole of this question and the question of relief to the people